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ABSTRACT

A series of recollections, memoirs, and anecdotes, this short autobiographical sketch focuses on former American Library Association (ALA) President Robert Vosper's involvement in the international library community from World War II until the 1980s. The work opens with reminiscences of acquiring foreign materials in 1944 while working at the University of California at Los Angeles. One story recalls how an order for the last installment of a publication from England arrived 6 years late, accompanied by an apologetic note explaining that it was delayed because (1) all of the type had been destroyed by air raids, and (2) some of the newly set proofs had later been lost at sea. Tales are shared about the founding of the Farmington Plan, which helped coordinate academic libraries' acquisitions, and about several of the key players in this effort who would later turn up as leaders in various positions within the library community. Vosper also relates his experiences as a Guggenheim Fellow in Great Britain and Italy, his association with the U.S. Information Service, and observations on his experiences while touring libraries throughout Western and Eastern Europe. Much of the narrative is devoted to Vosper's orientation to and high level of activity in the International Federation of Library Associations, and provides insights into the development of this organization. (SD)

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ROBERT VOSPER

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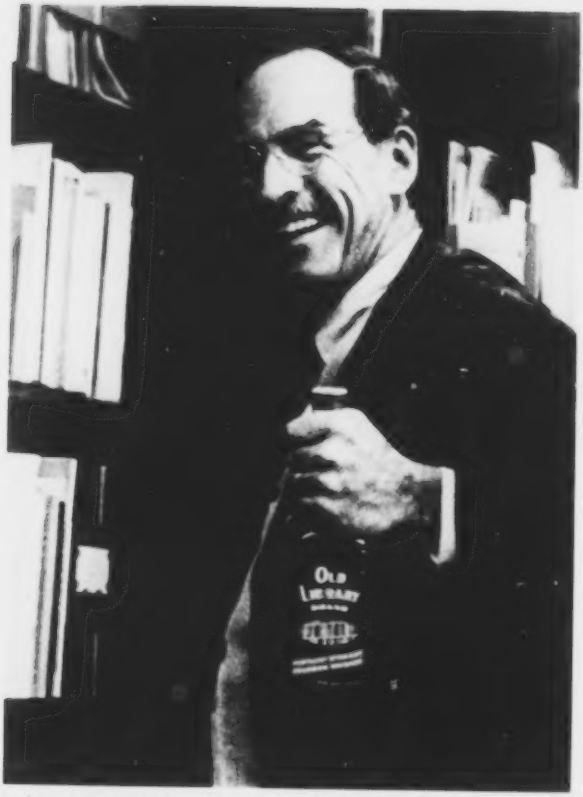

Robert Vosper in his office in the University Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles, 1964

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY HORIZONS

SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

ROBERT VOSPER

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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PREFACE

The future of books and libraries, nationally and internationally, is of prime concern to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Thus the center is pleased to present the reflections of Robert Vosper, a key participant in international library activities, particularly those of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). One of America's outstanding library leaders, Robert Vosper was president of the American Library Association (ALA), 1965–66. He was director of libraries at the University of Kansas, 1952–61, university librarian and director of the Clark Library at the University of California, Los Angeles, 1961–73, and professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at UCLA, 1961–83. Since 1983 he has been university librarian and professor emeritus.

Robert Vosper's recollections are introduced by his distinguished colleague in international librarianship Herman Liebaers, the former Royal Librarian of Belgium. The Center for the Book is grateful to these two longtime friends for their collaboration in our behalf.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress was established in 1977 to stimulate public interest in books and reading and to encourage the study of the role of books and printing in the diffusion of knowledge. Today the center is a focal point within the Library of Congress for celebrating the

legacy of books and the written word. Outside the Library, it is a catalyst for fostering understanding of the vital roles of books, reading, and libraries in society. Projects concerned with the international role of books are described in three of the center's publications: *The International Flow of Information: A Trans-Pacific Perspective* (1981), *U.S. International Book Programs 1981* (1982), and *U.S. Books Abroad: Neglected Ambassadors* (1984) by Curtis G. Benjamin.

The center's program of lectures, symposia, projects, exhibitions, and publications is supported by private, tax-deductible contributions from individuals and corporations. The activities of the center's seventeen state and regional affiliates depend on private, local contributions. The affiliated centers are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Upper Midwest (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota), Virginia, and Wisconsin. For further information, write the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

John Y. Cole
Director

FOREWORD

Roving ambassador of American Librarianship would be the best way to describe Robert Vosper. At the dedication of the new Royal Library in Brussels in 1969, I asked him to speak on behalf of the foreign librarians. A large number of European librarians told me afterwards that they were pleasantly surprised by the urbanity of this American representative of the profession. I was not, because I knew what I could expect.

Many of the comments by Bob Vosper that follow are new to me, especially those related to the earlier part of his career, but I find in all of them the same natural excellence and style. Whether for an important issue or an unavoidable trifle the same soft-spoken wisdom leads to the right decision.

The wildest French rhetoric to describe his personality would still come over as a British understatement to those who know this West Coast librarian, who feels so much at home in the United Kingdom and also, though a bit less, on the Old Continent. To him London seems closer to Los Angeles than to New York, and we, his friends, think that he is right.

Herman Liebaers
Brussels, August 1988

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY HORIZONS

I came into librarianship and, happily, into acquisitions work at UCLA in 1944 just when that business in university libraries was shifting into high gear and moving aggressively onto the international scene. The earlier prewar pattern had pretty much consisted of the passive albeit skillful transfer of faculty requests into purchase orders with established dealers and then into "accessions" records.

But the war, by damming up access to the European book market—this was well before area studies programs arose to shift emphasis to other, far more foreign parts of the world—had built up a great backlog of book and journal needs and had also shattered the European book market. Moreover, the experience of the war and its aftermath were to alter American academia very deeply, not just by rapidly multiplying the number of students and then the number of campuses, but by hastening the pace of research under the stimulus of federal grants and by opening up new fields of investigation and altering the configuration of academic thinking. The rise of interdisciplinary programs and of foreign area studies placed new demands on library acquisitions efforts as well as for public services.

The problem of interrupted access to the European book market was dramatized at UCLA in the fall of 1946 when I could exclaim that "Migne has arrived!" In 1939 a member of the history faculty had located in Bruges a set of Migne's *Pa-*

trologiae cursus completus, but before binding and shipping arrangements could be completed Migne was imprisoned by the German invasion. From then on silence, until March 1945 when a laconic postcard mailed the previous December 7 arrived "reporting on your order of November 6th 1939 . . . we may inform you that the set remains safely bij (*sic*) us in Bruges."

At about the same time we received the final fascicle of a set, the original parts of which had been given to us in 1940, of H. K. Swann's *A Monograph of the Birds of Prey*, which had begun publication in 1924. That final fascicle arrived in 1946 with this report from the publisher: "The tardiness in the appearance of this concluding part has been due to delay caused by the war, the destruction of all the type during the air attacks on London in 1940, and the subsequent loss at sea of some of the newly set proofs."

But routine access to recently published European books continued to elude us in 1946. Germany itself was still a complete blank, but a Swiss agent, in response to a blanket order we had written, was able to ship UCLA a thousand German books published during the war years and gathered up from Swiss bookshops, and a similar lot of wartime French books dribbled to us in small parcels from Paris, fortunately including some material published by a clandestine press in Algiers. For lack of bibliographical information about current publishing we were delighted to receive these "grab bags" as well as similar ones from Italy, Belgium, and Holland.

By 1947 the picture was improving. Publishers' new book lists as well as second-hand catalogs were beginning to appear from most European countries, excepting Germany. We were urging our faculty to take chances and order from such lists without waiting, in the classical mode, on scholarly reviews, by which time the few available copies would likely disappear. Some journals were beginning to reappear, but it was obvious that a national reporting and microfilming project would be required to fill the gaps. Thanks to the intervention of Library of

Congress officers overseas we were surprised to receive from Leipzig, despite the heavy bombing it had endured, two large crates of wartime German periodicals that had originally been destined for UCLA but then were caught up in the blockade.

The UCLA Library's wartime difficulties were of course but symptomatic of the larger library problem facing American scholarship, a problem to be dealt with only by national planning and united effort on the part of academic libraries. Leadership fortunately was taken by the Library of Congress under two forceful chief librarians, Archibald MacLeish, great poet turned statesman, and his successor, Luther Evans, and by Harvard's librarian Keyes Metcalf, a man of generous and farsighted vision and action. This leadership was brought into focus following on an October 1942 meeting in Farmington, Connecticut, at the home of the eminent book collector Wilmarth S. Lewis, who was chairman of the executive committee of a recently established Librarian's Council of the Library of Congress. At this session Keyes presented in effect the charter of what soon became known as the Farmington Plan, namely a Proposal for a Division of Responsibility among American Libraries in the Acquisition and Recording of Library Materials.

As finally codified, the objective of this massive enterprise was to "make sure that one copy at least of each new foreign book and pamphlet that might reasonably be expected to interest a research worker in the United States would be acquired by an American library, promptly listed in the National Union Catalog at the Library of Congress and made available by interlibrary loan or photographic reproduction." The phrase "one copy at least" needs emphasis here.

Eventually some sixty American libraries, predominantly university libraries together with the major federal libraries and the New York Public Library, came together voluntarily in a complex venture, the intentions of which were set in the right mode in a 1945 statement by Mr. MacLeish, by then the U.S. secretary of state, "that the national interest is directly affected by the holdings of the private research libraries." The voluntary

nature of this enterprise needs recalling today because at the time the parent universities, most of them of course state institutions, were indeed "private" in the sense of being quite independent of federal control and to a great extent — hard to realize today — independent of federal financial support. Moreover, the universities had little or no experience in cooperative ventures, had not yet been brought together into state "systems of higher education," and were in fact dominantly competitive in the search for faculty and the establishment of academic programs as well as in building library collections. Furthermore, the participating libraries agreed to pay for the incoming books and shipping costs; this was well before the day of federal handouts.

Through this cooperative effort "in the national interest" the participating libraries hoped to restore the flow of currently published books, at first from Western Europe but in due course from most other parts of the world. At the same time they hoped to restore and strengthen the foreign book trade and bibliographies.

The Farmington Plan Committee chaired by Keyes Metcalf gradually entered into contracts in each of the countries with book dealer agents who would quickly gather in the newly published books for shipment to selected American libraries that had agreed to accept everything in certain subject categories. In this way more or less the whole world of knowledge would be covered. We at UCLA, for example, opted for the history of Australia and New Zealand, Portuguese language and literature, Germanic language, and geology, all in support of strong academic programs. Somewhat later libraries were encouraged to take responsibility for seeking out and securing all possible publications from certain countries in Africa and Latin America where there was no organized book trade fitted for international transactions. Book dealer agreements were sufficiently set so that publications issued during 1948 were distributed from France, Sweden, and Switzerland, the initial target countries, and the Farmington Plan was under way.

In the meantime the American Library Association (ALA) had promoted at Princeton University a November 1946 Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges, which issued a series of pointed recommendations that would open up the postwar channels of communication between libraries and scholars of all nations. Thanks to the generosity of my senior colleagues at UCLA and Berkeley I was privileged to attend on their behalf and thus, on my first trip east of California, to meet with thirty leaders in the American library world, including Luther Evans and Keyes Metcalf as well as the likes of James T. Babb of Yale, Ralph A. Beals of the New York Public, Julian R. Boyd of Princeton, Robert B. Downs of Illinois, Verner W. Clapp of the Library of Congress, and Ralph R. Shaw of the Department of Agriculture. There were also two "youngsters" in attendance: the head of accessions at UCLA and, fortunately for me, my Princeton roommate Edwin E. Williams, who was Metcalf's assistant at Harvard and thereby editor of the Princeton Conference proceedings and in due course head of the Farmington Plan Office and author of the *Farmington Plan Handbook*.

At about the same time the Library of Congress undertook a dramatic mission to Europe whereby librarian teams, under the leadership of Reuben Price, moved into Germany directly behind the advancing Allied troops to gather up freight carloads of wartime publications, primarily for the federal libraries but also, if sufficient copies were available, for academic libraries under the developing Farmington Plan pattern. It must be noted that although Nazi records and publications as well as the freightcars were commandeered, trade publications were always paid for.

I must confess that at the beginning of my professional career I was much attracted, perhaps romantically, by these aggressive and effective approaches to library book collecting. Later at Kansas, I would assert a "piratical" style. Moreover, I was thus early on involved fortuitously in international activities and brought into a working relationship with both book

dealers and librarians throughout the world. As I have suggested, the primary focus of this involvement initially was Europe, but happily there were some brief ventures southward.

In 1949, on the urging of librarians and scholars looking toward a developing interest in Latin American studies, the enlightened American Embassy in Mexico City, under the leadership of Lewis Hanke, director of the Hispanic Foundation at the Library of Congress, convened a select, high-level conference between American representatives of government and academia and officials of the Mexican government and the Catholic Church, the latter in their formal purple robes, to seek an agreement whereby the church archives could be microfilmed for scholarly use in the United States as well as in Mexico, of course. Unfortunately even this major diplomatic approach failed to bridge the sensitive gap between the Mexican government and the church. It remained ironically for another church, the Mormon, to resolve this dilemma a few years later as part of their universal program of microfilming relevant historical records for genealogical research and then depositing the negative film in underground mines back at Salt Lake City.

Much to my enlightenment once again my Berkeley and Los Angeles colleagues generously tapped me to represent them at the ambassador's abortive but festive occasion. Thereby I was also able to meet at first hand with Mexico City book dealers with whom I had been trying to do business by rather uncertain mail. On the spot I could not only select directly from their shelves but also develop a relationship of mutual understanding and initiate some blanket orders, a new venture there. In this, my first "overseas" mission, I was unstintingly helped by George Smisor, who had just recently established an efficient microfilming service at the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin, primarily to copy scarce and often scattered files of government publications, newspapers, and journals for the Library of Congress and other U.S. libraries.

Over and beyond this valuable technical assistance, the Benjamin Franklin Library was a remarkable institution, in ef-

fect "a typical, medium sized American public library" housed in a handsome colonial residential building on a major thoroughfare, the Paseo de la Reforma. Here as a goodwill demonstration was the only open-stack free lending public library in Mexico City, with generous reference service and attractive reading rooms. When I first visited I was charmed to find a buzzing group of Mexican children with their mothers or nursemaids waiting for this magic building to open. Planned and dedicated in 1942 by the ALA under an enlightened contract with the U.S. State Department, this became the prototype for an eventual establishment of over 190 U.S.Information Service (USIS) libraries in more than sixty countries around the world.

This prideful USIS program faced its most critical experience in 1953 when the infamous Senator Joseph McCarthy dispatched his operatives, Messrs. Roy M. Cohn and G. David Schine, to undertake "on the spot" surveys of the State Department's overseas information services and thereby to condemn in specific terms the inclusion of "un-American" books on their open shelves. We can take some pride in the immediate and forceful counterattack by the Council of the ALA, under President Robert B. Downs, at the ALA's annual conference in Los Angeles in 1953. This tough-minded response had the public support of President Eisenhower and resulted in a *New York Times* editorial which hoped that the people of the United States would follow the lead of the librarians and take courage "to continue the battle against 'book burning' and self-appointed censors which have so little faith in the American people that they would eliminate their free right to choose."

Then in [illegible] when the ALA met in Miami Beach, Arthur Hamlin, the executive secretary of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, of which I was then president, had the imagination and initiative to foster a joint meeting in Havana with the Cuban Library Association, the first and only time that we Northerners had the wit to join with our Cuban colleagues. They were delighted by this recognition and we

were informed and charmed by their hospitality. In our diplomatic naiveté Arthur and I pulled a gaffe the first day by appearing on the street in walking shorts, against the tropical weather, but of course no proper Latin would dress so informally in the capital city, and so we quickly changed. One vivid memory is of the visit to the National Library then housed in an ancient Spanish fortress looking northward from the sea wall. I had visions of the national librarian, a rather formidable looking lady, protecting her library against undue reader demands by pulling up the drawbridge over the moat, slamming the great iron-studded doors, and retreating to the battlements, where indeed she had an airy apartment.

But the serious intrusion on Cuban libraries came a few years later when the Castro government imposed a number of changes on education and libraries. One unhappy result was that a number of our Cuban friends had to emigrate, including the courtly University of Havana librarian Jorge Aguayo, who joined the Pan American Union staff, and a member of the library school staff, who came to UCLA to direct our publications exchange program.

By 1956 the Farmington Plan had become a complex enterprise and thus a demanding administrative commitment for the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Moreover, the acquisitions efforts of libraries had become more sophisticated, as had the European book trade, to which the plan was still primarily directed. Thus there had arisen a number of procedural questions as well as some uncertainties as to whether the plan was accomplishing its purpose, whether it was still requisite, or whether it should be modified or even abandoned. One English critic had observed that it was "a large, costly, and rather clumsy sledge-hammer to crack a small nut." Yet it had promptly brought some 150,000 important and scarce volumes into American libraries, and both the German and Scandinavian research libraries were debating and designing analogous projects.

Therefore the ARL asked me and my Kansas colleague

Robert Talmadge to "re-examine the purpose, scope and results" of the ten-year Farmington experience. The Farmington Plan Survey involved a series of sampling studies and analyses of receipts as well as failures. Less tedious was a two-month trek to visit participating libraries from Stanford to Dartmouth to mull over the plan with both library staff and interested faculty. The result was a 1959 decision by the ARL that though certain operating procedures in Western Europe should be modified, the ARL had an overarching obligation "to assure adequate coverage of currently published foreign library materials of scholarly importance . . . on a world-wide basis." A panel of area subcommittees was therefore set up to move forward more aggressively beyond Europe. It was soon obvious that so extensive a program would require an office with paid staff, a newsletter, and other administrative services. This need was a primary factor in urging the ARL in 1962 to shift from its relaxed and comradely style, to incorporate, and to appoint a full-time executive secretary. The Farmington Plan thereby moved into high gear in the ARL's new Washington office.

As the Farmington survey was wrapping up, the Guggenheim Foundation granted me one of its treasured fellowships, to supplement a University of Kansas sabbatical leave. With the Farmington experience behind me, I was eager to spend the academic year 1959–60 in Great Britain looking into the history and growth of book collections in the modern British universities (that is, other than Oxford and Cambridge) with reference to the American state university library experience.

With our four children, luggage for a year's stay, and a great American station wagon that would be a startling sight on the then narrow and winding roads of rural England and the even more daunting roads of the Italian hill towns, we sailed out past the Statue of Liberty on my first genuine overseas voyage. We wistfully hoped that the remainder of our trip would be less harassing than the departure from New York, where our overloaded car was broken into and I lost my new briefcase filled with detailed University of Kansas want lists for

searching out in British and European bookshops along the way. This would-be supplementary project of book hunting had the informal blessing of that superb book collecting scholar Gordon Ray, who was then on his way from the University of Illinois to becoming the Guggenheim Foundation president. This was a move that I applauded for more than one reason, because he had been a dangerous competitor on behalf of Illinois in the antiquarian bookmarket while I was seeking to enrich our library collections in Kansas.

My leisurely library tour, with side trips to bookstores, began at the University of Exeter and ranged by train and car up to Aberdeen and back to Southampton. In snowy Aberdeen the librarian thoughtfully introduced me, in front of his peat fire, to genuine, that is "single malt" Scotch whisky, little known at that time in the United States, at least in Kansas, and then slyly to the taking of snuff, a test that I noisily failed. At the very new University of Keele the enterprising librarian proudly took me to a nearby group of abandoned brick kilns that he had taken over for the dry storage of a great miscellaneous book stock that he had purchased en bloc from the estate of a voracious Edinburgh book collector. For the next several years the library staff would burrow happily through those kilns to extract books for their library. In an unheated hotel dining room on the edge of the famed St. Andrews golf course, where doughty Scots were chasing red golf balls in the snowy grass, I envied the university students all snugly wrapped in their ankle-length russet wool academic gowns. Later in an equally cold Leicester hotel I was pleasantly introduced to a stone hot water bottle in my lumpy bed. Intriguingly that university library was housed then in a former "mad house" where students and faculty studied in what had been the residents' lock-up cells. At quite another extreme was ancient Durham, romantically sited on its medieval hilltop above the river, with the archives of the adjacent cathedral securely stored in what had been the cathedral bakery.

A side trip to Dublin gave me and my wife a memorable

opportunity to spend a wintry evening with the widow and daughters, as well as a number of literary and political friends, of P. S. O'Hegarty, postmaster general of Ireland during the "troubles." Thanks to a tip from a London bookseller, O'Hegarty's extensive private library of modern Irish literature and history, notably scarce political and economic pamphlets and theatrical playbills, would soon be unpacked and shelved in the University of Kansas Library. At Trinity College library on that visit I had the worrisome opportunity actually to lift the brilliant Book of Kells from the exhibition case and turn the pages. I recalled that holy experience some years later when we visited the Abbey Library in St. Gall, Switzerland, with its rich hoard of early Irish manuscripts safely stored there by Irish missionary monks.

A special pleasure early in that British year was an invitation to sit in, as a visiting ARL librarian, on a meeting of the British analog of ARL, the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL). Thereby in Exeter I had a ready opportunity to meet with many of the university librarians whose libraries I would visit during the year. That illuminating meeting encouraged me a few years later when I was chairman of ARL to maneuver, with the generous help of the Carnegie Corporation, a joint meeting of the two organizations at the University of Hull in 1964. There in relaxed but efficient meetings, interrupted in civilized fashion by visits to the tea table and the local pub, we discussed issues of mutual concern such as the procurement of publications from obscure parts of the world as with the Farmington Plan, library services for increasing numbers of undergraduate students, patterns of staff organization, cooperative cataloging, and the development of new universities or new branches of existing universities. A special pleasure at Hull was in meeting Hull's librarian, the elegant and now late lamented Philip Larkin, preeminent contemporary poet of England who still found the time and interest to deal carefully with such mundane library matters as interlibrary loan.

Following the Hull meetings the American contingent split up to visit libraries across the country. Ralph Ellsworth and I used this opportunity to visit several of the "new" universities just being established in East Anglia (Norwich), Essex (Colchester), Kent (Canterbury), Warwick (Coventry), and the like. Ralph's special concern was with architectural planning and mine with the organization of new campuses, a matter of special interest just then in California as well as some other states.

Following on my 1959–60 sabbatical tour of British libraries, I was able to pick up with Farmington Plan matters in France, where I helped negotiate with a Paris dealer to take over from the Bibliothèque National as our French agent, and in Scandinavia, where I met with our efficient book dealer agents and then, most fortunately, with Norway's great university librarian, Harald Tveterås. Under his tutelage I studied the spirit and practicality of interlibrary cooperation in the Scandinavian style, for he was chairman of the pan-Scandinavian program for the cooperative intake of foreign publications, the Scandia Plan. In Sweden at Malmö and Lund through my brash inquiry and the courtesy of Frank Francis of the British Museum, who had been most hospitable in London, I was enabled to sit in on a meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). There I met several librarians who later became close friends, such as Gösta Ottervik of Sweden, Preben Kirkegaard of Denmark, Herman Liebaers of Belgium, who would become IFLA's great president, Margreet Wijnstroom of Holland, who would become its first full-time secretary general, Joachim Wieder of Germany, and many others. Beyond these friendships that session opened up for me a whole new and stimulating professional world in which I became increasingly involved for the next several years.

Before leaving Europe I had the further blessing of a Fulbright lectureship that set us up handsomely in Rome during March, April, and May. There, after a murky spring in England and a glorious drive down the Rhone and along the wind-

ing Adriatic coast via Pisa, we could breakfast on the balcony of our pensione, enjoying a clear blue sky, the smell of artichokes cooking for dinner, and a view out over the Tiber to the ochre walls of Rome beyond. We were on a hillside near the American Academy in Transtevere whence I could take the trolley to my headquarters in the expansive and busy USIS Library near the American Embassy.

My intriguing but exacting and often frustrating task was to discuss recent trends in American university libraries with university librarians, faculty, and government officials at a sequence of regional seminars that I would set up in Milan, Naples, and Rome for seminarians from so far afield as Sicily and Trieste. Arranged by the Italian Library Association and USIS/Italy, the program had a difficult birth. It had been initiated by a crusading young director general of higher education who was eager to review and perhaps reform some complicated and deep-seated problems in the universities, but he fell ill and died shortly after my arrival in Rome. To complicate things further the USIS librarian for Italy who had initiated my plans was transferred to Washington in the autumn of 1959 while I was in England.

Nonetheless, Italian hospitality and USIS efficiency, as well as Italian curiosity about modern library developments elsewhere, assured me of a warm welcome as well as lively, often disputatious seminar sessions. The crux of the argument was over the vexed issue of centralization of library administration and collections and catalogs as against the common Italian pattern of decentralization among a large number—even at very small universities—of fiercely independent departmental libraries, each the fiefdom of the very powerful professor of the discipline. Thus in the typical situation there was no strong library center within the university, and in fact very little administrative centralization either. Therefore discussions of public service in American terms and of the economical use of overall very limited book funds tended to founder on the shoals of the professor's "academic freedom."

But there were some forthright objections to the traditional pattern by those younger professors, notably in the sciences but also in economics, who had studied in the United States, Great Britain, or northern Europe. Happily there were a few promising exceptions to the general rule, as in Pavia, where the forceful young librarian provided an intelligent, up-to-date open-stack central reference and journals collection and even a relaxing popular rental library for current novels and travel books. What a pleasant contrast this was to the main reading room of the great Catholic University of Milan, which reminded me of a prison dining hall. This unadorned room with long reading tables and not an open book shelf in sight was divided by a shoulder-high partition, on one side of which sat the men students and on the other the women. The bookshelves were at the far end of the room behind locked grill doors in front of which stood a grim uniformed functionary, the "bidello" who guarded the entrance to all official buildings. On his shelves were a small collection of standard Italian authors, a dictionary, and a few other reference books, including Bompiani's encyclopedia, from which the plastic cover had not been removed. In the end I came away from these sessions and from visits to a number of the universities admiring the professional courage and idealism of my Italian colleagues and also the energetic effectiveness of the USIS program, with its public demonstration of forthcoming library service.

There were also other bright spots. One fine Sunday in Milan when I was idly wandering through the extensive city park I was attracted to a knoll in the center where from a distance I saw a number of colorful umbrellas over cafe tables where Italian families were enjoying ice cream and espresso or wine. This was served from a very modern concrete and glass building, half of which was a typical bar or cafe. The other half, with interior connection, was a small but friendly municipal lending library, the Biblioteca del Parco. Here every day of the week one could sit outside, weather permitting, and read a book while sipping a Campari and soda. Equally attractive in a

different mode was the Olivetti company library handsomely situated in a garden area on the Bay of Naples in Pozzuoli. In addition to a modern technical information center this library provided a generous cultural and educational service for the workers and their families, including book reviewing contests with prizes, an attempt to counter the weight of illiteracy in southern Italy.

That introductory meeting with IFLA in Sweden was timely for me and timely in IFLA's history. During the Italian spring a letter came from my bookish Kansas chancellor, Franklin D. Murphy, reporting that he would be moving to UCLA, my old stamping grounds, and that he would need a librarian there because my former chief Larry Powell was resigning to become the founding dean of UCLA's graduate library school. Larry in fact turned up in Transtevere as an emissary. Thus I returned to UCLA when it was burgeoning in many ways, including in its widespread international programs, which would not only justify but even encourage an active involvement with IFLA. This at a time when IFLA, in the mid-1960s, would be moving into an activist and more genuinely international program under the leadership of Francis, Liebaers, and Wijnstroom.

Frank Francis entered on the presidency at the conclusion of the 1963 IFLA meeting in Sofia, a site that took us deep into the isolated heart of ideology-locked eastern Europe. It was surprising but perhaps a pleasant relief to be in a capital city so lacking in automobile traffic that the stern white-gloved policeman snapped to attention to halt the only oncoming car in sight, more than a block away. Shortly after our arrival a dusty, luggage-laden Rolls Royce driven by weary British pulled up at our hotel after a rough drive from central Europe. For several miles after crossing the severe border, they reported, there were almost no visible roads and certainly no paved ones. But in the grand tradition of dauntless British travelers they somehow made their way to Sofia, where for the following week their great capitalist car was a popular sight in town.

Our own departure on Sunday threatened to be equally difficult. Our taxi found every airport access road blocked by armed soldiers and tanks. Having seen no legible newspapers during the week we wondered whether another Balkan war had erupted, but finally our determined driver somehow argued us through the barrier and into a line of obviously official limousines. At the airport we found a delegation of Balkan girls in colorful peasant dress bearing armloads of flowers to present to the Russian lady astronaut Valentina Tereshkova, who was on a victory tour of eastern Europe after her dramatic spaceflight. Some years later at IFLA's gala fiftieth anniversary session in Brussels I had hoped to meet her again and more formally because she accepted an invitation to be a speaker at our opening session, of which I was chairman. But at the last minute she fell ill, so instead I introduced her husband, a much bemedaled general, himself twice a cosmonaut.

In the midst of the week's official meetings in Sofia and the official banquets at which unhappily very few Bulgarian librarians were ever present, I enjoyed a visit to the National Library to negotiate an unusual publications exchange arrangement. UCLA would ship a generous list of current scientific and technical reference books, hitherto unknown in Sofia, in return for a lovely old stringed musical instrument for our ethnomusicology program. To seal this arrangement Mme Savova broke out a bottle of four-star brandy in her office along with great bunches of grapes from the vineyards along the shores of the Black Sea.

The following year in Rome the meetings and the hospitality were of course wonderfully more open and graceful, although the Russian delegates, who had begun attending as recently as 1959, all stayed together in their special hotel and traveled on our tours in a special bus from which curious foreigners were excluded. Frank Francis, in the best British diplomatic style, as the new IFLA president, rose magnificently to the Italian occasion at a grand luncheon on our Etruscan tour when the professorial president of the Italian Library Associa-

tion, always an official figurehead rather than a working librarian, made a lengthy welcoming address in Latin! To our delight Frank's response albeit brief was in good academic Latin, but later in private and a bit profanely, he confessed that had very much wanted to cap the affair by responding in classical Greek, but that he couldn't quite pull it off.

Frank's intellectual insight and administrative force were especially evident in his opening presidential address at the 1966 session in Scheveningen, where he focused on three recent "decisive events in the library field: the completion of the publication of the British Museum Catalogue . . . ; the practical proposals for shared cataloging on a truly international scale, which have emanated from the Library of Congress; and the application, in a number of different places, of mechanized procedures to library catalogues and bibliographical lists." On advancing to the directorship of the British Museum in 1959, Frank had taken the crucial decision to discontinue the faltering and costly but classically perfect General Catalogue of the British Museum Library in favor of issuing currently "without further editing" the library's working catalog. This brought his library into the modern bibliographical world, just as Brad (Col. Frank B.) Rogers had recently taken the equally courageous decision to cut off the ponderous and sadly delinquent Index Catalogue of the Surgeon General's Library in favor of the up-to-date and technically innovative Catalog of the National Library of Medicine.

Thus it was not surprising that Frank Francis declared in Scheveningen that he "was electrified" by the prospect he had seen on learning of the Library of Congress plans, under the Higher Education Act of 1965, to collaborate on an international scale in building LC's current collections and rapidly producing cataloging information that could then be shared with other libraries around the world. Frank hailed this as being "the most important breakthrough in the realm of information." This generous public vote of confidence at the IFLA congress was a hallmark of his statesmanlike style as well as his

professional insight. It pointed the way toward the aggressive program of Universal Bibliographic Control that IFLA would mount a few years later under the professional leadership of Dorothy Anderson early in the presidency of Herman Liebaers.

At Frankfurt in 1968 Frank faced an equally critical political problem when in the midst of the IFLA conference we learned that the Russians had brutally invaded Prague, just across the border. The nearby University of Frankfurt students, volatile as German students are wont to be, began to march on our meeting room in the university library in search of the "hated" Russians. To help forestall a serious confrontation we all removed our identification badges, and then we gathered up a "purse" to help the Czech delegates, a lively and attractive group many of whom were obviously Dubcek supporters, to stay on in Germany while assaying their prospects back home. Central to that group was the charming city librarian of Prague, Rudolf Málek, who did return to his young family and then into professional exile as a minor high school librarian.

Thereafter we neither saw nor heard anything of Málek until November 1971 when the IFLA Executive Board met in Moscow. To our amazed delight he turned up, reporting that although he was not allowed to travel or even write to Western Europe he could move around on the Soviet side. On Thursday, which happened to be our Thanksgiving Day, we were invited to an elegant luncheon by the minister of culture, who sported the face and physique as well as the manner of a Roman boxer rather than a cultural officer. As soon as I was introduced in the receiving line he shoved his forefinger into my chest and complained sharply about the refusal of "my" Los Angeles officials to allow Premier and Mrs. Krushchev to visit Disneyland way back in September 1959, presumably for security reasons; it may be recalled that Krushchev had been red-faced and vocal in anger on that unfortunate occasion. At our luncheon Málek was seated next to the minister and this set an unhappy stage for our afternoon session in Mme Rudomino's

Library of Foreign Literature, in the midst of which an official of the Czech Embassy interrupted to insist that poor Málek must leave Moscow immediately. Obviously the minister of culture had expressed his indignation directly after lunch. Some of us sadly saw Málek off at the airport and into international anonymity once again. Special seats that evening at the colorful Russian circus failed to raise our spirits.

That experience brings to mind another, less critical diplomatic contretemps at the Budapest conference in 1972. The setting and the hospitality during the week had provided a kind of Italian, rather than Russian, color and gaiety, and the final banquet at a lively restaurant promised more of the same, until the North Korean delegation, the first ever to appear at an IFLA session, realized that the flag-decorated map on the wall behind the orchestra lacked a North Korean flag. Immediately they marched out of the restaurant and stood glowering at us through the front window. Our Hungarian hosts went into a huddle, dispatched a courier, and then very soon, with arms around shoulders, escorted the Koreans back to the tables, which were well stocked with good Hungarian food and wine. The flag was on the way they reported, and we all clapped. In fact, this being a Sunday evening, that obscure flag couldn't be found anywhere, but Hungarian diplomacy succeeded.

At the 1970 conference Frank Francis was succeeded in the chair by the gracefully forceful Herman Liebaers, who in 1969 had presided over the dedication of a grand addition to his Royal Library building in the center of Brussels. Many a librarian admired that versatile structure and its rich collections, not least because the building included a penthouse residential suite, looking out over the city, for the librarian. Because of his own style and ambition as well as the timing, Herman was quickly able to initiate notable changes in the IFLA structure and program and to bolster some of these changes with generous financial support from the Council on Library Resources (CLR). The most visible of these changes in 1971 was the establishment of a permanent IFLA secretariat at

The Hague in headquarters space generously provided by the government and directed with energetic optimism and efficiency by Margreet Wijnstroom, previously secretary general of the Dutch Public Library Association. Not everyone knew that she was also a member of the Dutch Athletic Hall of Fame for her hockey skills. No shy and retiring lady librarian she!

The 1971 conference in Liverpool was immediately preceded by a heartening preconference funded by UNESCO, which brought thirty delegates from twenty-one "developing countries" who were funded also to stay on for the regular IFLA meetings. This was the beginning of what became a regular feature of IFLA conferences, and it was the springboard for the creation in due course of IFLA's Division of Regional Activities, focused on the so-called Third World. A key figure in this programmatic and geographic enhancement of IFLA was the genial and diligent librarian of the Rubber Research Institute in Kuala Lumpur, Joseph Soosai. His persistent contribution to IFLA was applauded in 1979 by his election to the Executive Board, its first Third World member. It had been a long time since India's redoubtable S. R. Ranganathan had urged IFLA to break out of its comfortable European and American focus. That eventual breakthrough in the early 1970s was owing in large part to the diplomatic vision and energy of Herman Liebaers, IFLA's ambassador-at-large to world librarianship. No wonder that in 1974 King Baudouin called him from the library to the court to become in effect Belgium's cultural and intellectual ambassador extraordinary.

Another powerful change in 1971 was the establishment in London, in space provided by the British Library and with a supportive CLR grant, of IFLA's International Cataloging Secretariat directed by Dorothy Anderson. This gave force and durability to Dorothy's highly professional IFLA activity in this sphere since the 1950s. This expansion and related developments then gave rise to IFLA's International Office for Universal Bibliographic Control, established by President Liebaers in 1974, again with Dorothy Anderson in the lead. He saw this

as the "ultimate expression of IFLA's newly discovered maturity."

The Liverpool conference concluded Foster Mohrhardt's six-year term as an IFLA vice president, leaving me with the task of succeeding him on the Executive Board. During his tenure he had surely but quietly brought the United States back into active involvement and prestige within IFLA. This was no surprise, not only because when a young librarian he had worked closely as an assistant with the University of Michigan's great librarian William Warner Bishop, one of the founders of IFLA and its second president (1931–36). During the Bishop years, in no small measure because of his stature as a professional leader, the ALA had worked effectively on the international scene. This period was reminiscent of the founding years of the ALA itself. It should be recalled that the ALA, founded in 1876, was in fact the first national library association. The following year an official ALA delegation undertook the long and expensive sea voyage to London to join in on the founding meeting of the (British) Library Association.

In the post-Bishop years, however, American involvement with IFLA was too often meager, in part because of the impact of the war and the depression but also because of a latent isolationist, inward-looking, and smug attitude within the ALA, in fact within the American psyche. Foster, however, quickly refreshed the international springs. He had already been the founding president of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians, and as our national agricultural librarian he had moved his library forcefully into Asian procurement and bibliography. No wonder that in 1977 an international symposium resulting in a festschrift was convened in his honor by the National Agricultural Library and that in 1980 the Japanese government awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun. He coupled that international scope with a superb ability to build bridges of creative activity; he may be the only person to serve as a high officer in both IFLA and FID. The combination of Liebaers and Mohrhardt gave IFLA powerful momentum and

brought strong support from the Council on Library Resources as well as from a number of governments, including our own.

Thus it was that in 1974, Herman's last year as president, we were finally able to bring a full-scale IFLA conference to the United States. In 1933 Bishop had tried and he certainly deserved the honor. Because the impact of the depression was so widespread he could only muster a modified version in Chicago and the Europeans gathered a bit later in Avignon. The Washington 1974 conference was a considerable success in all ways but one: we failed to elicit any direct support from the U.S. government beyond the forthcoming contributions from the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. We even had to pay a fee for use of the State Department's handsome eighth-floor reception suite. This was ironical in view of the fact that all of our European host cities had provided generous and often gala settings and hospitality, even little Finland and most gloriously Italy. But Washington was blasé about international conferences, so in good free enterprise style we turned gratefully to our friends in H. W. Wilson, the Grolier Society, the ALA, and of course the Library of Congress.

The theme of National and International Library Planning was timely and urgent, and one enduring result was IFLA Publication 4, which I helped edit, presenting the key conference papers. Our keynote speaker was Frederick Burkhart, the enthusiastic and wise founding chairman of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Lined up during the week were Harry Hookway, chief executive of the British Library, their recently established national library structure, Esko Häkli, director of the Finnish National Library; his opposite number from Singapore, Hedwig Anuar; N. M. Sikorsky, director of the Lenin State Library; and Joyce Robinson, the inspired and inspiring head of the Jamaica Library Service, who would return to address our fiftieth anniversary session in Brussels in 1977. As conference chairman in both Washington and Brussels I had little opportunity to enjoy much of the official programs or the lively hospitality events,

except in retrospect. My milieu was meetings of the planning committee and Margreet Wijnstroom's efficient office.

In buoyant Brussels, however, I could sense and relish the gaiety of the setting and the many colorful public events honoring IFLA's fiftieth anniversary. For this was Herman's hometown and by then he had moved, metaphorically at least, across the way from the Royal Library to the Royal Palace, where he flourished as Grand Marshall of the Court, obviously much more able there than we had been in Washington to generate a full panoply of official support. He even managed to escort a small group of us over to the palace where we curtsied and were regally pinned with Royal Belgian Honors. The professional programs matched, I think, the public setting. At the opening session I enjoyed introducing, in addition to Joyce Robinson and the military husband of the convalescing Russian astronaut, our own Daniel Boorstin, recently installed as Librarian of Congress, and C. Northcote Parkinson, best recognized as of Parkinson's Law but in fact a distinguished government economist and also a popular seafaring novelist. Later program sessions presented other notable speakers, such as another British novelist, C. P. (Lord) Snow, and most impressively, at least to me, the unassuming Léopold Senghor, president of Senegal and proud poet of négritude. He discussed very directly the problems of developing libraries in a country that must foster basic education and literacy as well as assist local publishers in the face of such an expensive predicament as the need to import paper. Moreover, he pointedly deplored the pressures to increase military expenditures, too often at the expense of cultural programs.

At quite another extreme but equally impressive was the attractive young man from beleaguered Angola, the first representative ever to appear from there. He came to plead eloquently for the encouragement and preservation of oral literature in such a country as his. His presentation provided a heartening demonstration of collegiality because his only European language was of course Portuguese. Therefore his plea

was translated vocally on the floor, first into Spanish and then into French and English. This time in editing the conference papers for publication as *Libraries for All* (IFLA Publication 15), I had the expert collaborative support of Wim Koops of Groningen who by then had put IFLA's publishing program on an efficient and productive basis.

All of this professional fare was livened during the week by kaleidoscopic street programs of wandering brass bands, folk music and dancing, clowns, and other circus acts such as iron benders, jugglers, and fire spitters. To top it all there were fifteen hundred liters of specially brewed beer—the Belgians are exuberant beer drinkers—called IFLAMBIK, the effect of which was noticeably heightened because there had not been time to age it properly.

A month later the British topped IFLA's fiftieth with the centenary of their library association. With their best display of pomp and pageantry they laid on, among other events, a special Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, followed by a grand evening of elegant buffets and music in London's dramatic, beflagged Guildhall, where the Lord Mayor and his Lady were accompanied by an escort of sheriffs, pikemen, and musketeers in full Elizabethan costume. At the formal banquet in the Dorchester Hotel later in the week I was delighted, as an honorary vice president, to propose the official toast to the library association—following of course on the customary toast to the queen—in which I could remind my hosts that for the foundation meeting of their library association in London in 1877 a sizeable delegation of ALA officials, including the ambitious young Melvil Dewey, undertook the long sea voyage just a year after the ALA's establishment, to toast their British junior colleagues.

It would be hard to outshine those memorable affairs in 1977, but in fact the 1984 IFLA conference in Nairobi was dramatized by the very fact of being the first to be set in Africa and only the second outside Europe or America (1980, which I had missed, had been in Manila). The Nairobi setting itself was

exciting, including the noble and efficient Kenyatta Conference Center adjacent to the tomb of Kenya's George Washington, Jomo Kenyatta. Most impressive, however, was the massive attendance of young librarians—eager, informed, and involved—from twenty-five African countries. For virtually all of them this was of course their first IFLA conference, and for the rest of us a heartening experience, reassuring us that librarianship is truly an international profession and reminding us that ours may be the only international organization that has never been strained by the ideological split and competition between East and West or North and South.

The 1987 conference in Brighton brings these comments to a fitting conclusion because a large group of us old-time IFLA officers and board members rallied around to honor Margreet Wijnstroom's retirement and to indulge in mutual reminiscences of international horizons.

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